

Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
335 South Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122

Dear Sisters Brummer, Wisniewski and Kemmer:

I am responding to your August 28, 2015, letter to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. I appreciate the concerns you expressed regarding the subsurface smoldering event in the Bridgeton Landfill and the radiologically impacted material in Areas 1 and 2 of the adjacent West Lake Landfill.

In your letter you request that EPA provide a voluntary buyout for all who live within one mile of the West Lake Landfill fence-line. The EPA has determined that, based on the information we have at this time, circumstances at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site do not warrant the use of permanent relocation pursuant to our authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Based on the available scientific data evaluated to date by our experts, the data do not conclusively support a scenario at this time where the SSE will encounter the RIM. The Region has also requested that the EPA's Office of Research and Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review the same data and reports available to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (located on their website) related to the SSE. To date, those reviews have not indicated advancement of the SSE beyond the neck area of the Bridgeton Landfill. EPA will continue to assess new data related to the status of the SSE as Missouri DNR makes it available.

EPA remains in close coordination with the MDNR on their work in overseeing control and monitoring systems at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. Their efforts have improved conditions at the landfill. My office, working in close partnership with federal and state agencies, remains focused on protecting public health as we develop a final decision on the best remedy for the West Lake Superfund Site. The EPA has enlisted the assistance and support of our federal partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Geological Survey in carrying out this work.

My office will continue to keep the community and elected officials updated on the work that we are doing at the site. Information is posted online at www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/. If you have suggestions for other information you would like to see on this site, please contact Ben Washburn in our Office of Public Affairs. Ben may be reached at 913-551-7364.

Sincerely,

Mark Hague
Acting Regional Administrator